## **Kentucky Trout Fishing Attitudes and Opinions**

# Final Results of the 2003 Trout Angler Survey

Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope to:

**Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources** 

**#1 Game Farm Road** 



Frankfort, KY 40601

- It is essential that everyone who receives a questionnaire, fills it out and returns it to us. We need to hear from you even if you don't fish for trout very much or feel like you are not that knowledgeable, or even if trout fishing is not that important to you. We want your opinion.
- It is important that this survey is filled out only by the person to whom it was addressed. This will ensure that trout anglers are most accurately represented.
- Please do not write your name on the questionnaire because we want to guarantee your anonymity. An identification number has been stamped on the back that will only be used to check your name off our list once your survey has been returned.
- Please return the questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

#### **Some Statistics**

- 3,490 completed surveys were returned from the initial mailing list of 6,250 names.
- This represents an effective rate of return of 64.0% (after removal of bad addresses and surveys returned uncompleted).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

#### Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

Your contribution to this effort is very much appreciated. Your responses to this survey will help guide us in our trout management decisions for years to come. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources welcomes any other comments you may have about our trout program or trout fishing in Kentucky.

#### **COMMENTS**

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Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided to:

#### Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources # 1 Game Farm Road Frankfort, KY 40601

Results of this survey will be made available after July 2003 at any of our fisheries district offices or on the KDFWR website at (www.kdfwr.state.ky.us). If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact Dave Dreves at the above address, by phone at 1-800-858-1549 or via email at dave.dreves@mail.state.ky.us

1. Check the box which best describes you as a trout fisherman.	4. About how many different days did you fish for species other than trout in 2002?  Days			
32.0% Beginner	Range = $0-350$ Mean = $31.0$			
62.8% Experienced				
4.9% Expert	5. About how many different days did you fish for trout at each			
0.3% Professional guide	of the following waters in 2002?			
2. Check the method of fishing for trout that you use most often.	a) Lakes and reservoirs Range = 0-125 $M_{\underline{ean} = 4.6}$ Days			
	b) Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam			
15.3% Fly fishing	Range = 0-200 Mean = 5.8 downstream to the KY-TN state line Days			
28.4% Spinning/casting artificial lures	Range = 0-200 Mean = 2.8 c) Other tailwater trout fisheries below dams — Days			
3.0% Trolling artificial lures				
9.2% Fishing with artificially scented baits (ex. Power Bait®)	d) Delayed harvest streams Range = $0-108$ Mean = $1.1$ Days			
44.1% Fishing with natural baits (minnows, worms, corn, cheese)	e) Brook trout streams Range = $0-220$ Mean = $0.9$ Days			
	f) Other trout streams Range = $0-100 \text{ Mean} = 2.8 \text{ Days}$			
3. Check the box indicating how frequently you used each of the following methods when fishing for trout last year.    Verific Sometimes   Sometimes	6. Which one of the following sport fish groups or species do you prefer to fish for the most? (Check only one)  35.8%  Trout			
a) Fly fishing	19.3% Black bass			
b) Spinning/casting artificial lures	15.3% Crappie			
16.2% 48.4% 26.6% 8.8%	4.5% Sunfish			
c) Trolling artificial lures	4.1% Walleye			
d) Fishing with artificially	7.0% Striped bass or hybrid striped bass			
scented baits (ex. Power Bait®)	8.6% Catfish Muskie, Smallmouth bass, 5.4% Other (please specify) Bluegill			
e) Fishing with natural baits (minnows, worms, corn, cheese)   17.7% 31.8% 33.8% 16.8%				

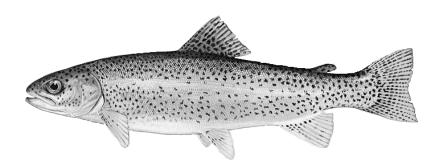
7.	Check any of the following streams that you fished in t	he
	Delayed Harvest section since October 1, 2002.	

2.7%	Bark Camp Creek, Whitley Co.
4.0%	Cane Creek, Laurel Co.
1.3%	East Fork Indian Creek, Menifee Co
1.7%	Otter Creek, Meade Co.
7.8%	Rock Creek, McCreary Co.

IF YOU DID NOT FISH IN THE DELAYED HARVEST SECTION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE STREAMS SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2002 THEN PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 9.

8. How would you rate your fishing success on the Delayed Harvest Streams?

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good
0.9%	3.4%	7.9%	3.2%	0.9%



### 9. Please check any of the following streams and rivers that you fished for trout in 2002.

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<b>Daniel Boone National Forest</b>	Other Streams
3.1% Bark Camp Creek, Whitley Co.	2.2% Beaver Creek, Wayne Co.
0.7% Big Double Creek, Clay Co.	1.4% Beaver Dam Creek, Edmonson Co.
4.3% Cane Creek, Laurel Co.	1.5% ☐Big Caney Creek, Elliot Co.
2.0% Chimney Top Creek, Wolfe Co.	<sub>0.4%</sub> Buffalo Creek, Owsley Co.
1.5% Craney Creek. Rowan Co.	1.7% □Casey Creek, Trigg Co.
5.2% East Fork Indian Creek, Menifee	2.5% Elkhorn Creek, Pike Co.
1.1% Minor Creek, Rowan Co.	0.6% ☐Elk Spring Creek, Wayne Co.
3.1% Middle Fork Red River, Powell Co.	1.7% Goose Creek, Casey Co.
9.1% Rock Creek, McCreary Co.	<sub>0.8%</sub> Greasy Creek, Leslie Co.
0.9% Slabcamp Creek, Rowan Co.	3.8% Hatchery Creek, Russell Co.
3.9% Swift Camp Creek, Wolfe Co.	0.5% ☐ Hood Creek, Johnson Co.
1.6% North Fork Triplett Creek, Rowan	1.6% ☐Laurel Creek, Elliot Co.
1.3% War Fork, Jackson Co.	0.6% Left Fork Beaver Creek, Floyd Co.
	0.9% Lick Creek, Simpson Co.
Tailwaters below dams	0.9% Line Fork, Letcher Co.
2.7% Buckhorn	2.3% Little Kentucky River, Trimble Co.
3.0% ☐Carr Creek	<sub>1.4%</sub> Little Sandy (East Fork), Boyd Co.
8.6% □Cave Run	0.3% Little Whippoorwill Creek, Logan
47.5% Cumberland	2.3% Lynn Camp Creek, Hart Co.
2.1% Dewey	4.5% Otter Creek, Meade Co.
2.2% Fishtrap	<sub>1.4%</sub> Peter Creek, Barren Co.
4.0% ☐Grayson	0.6% Raven Creek, Harrison Co.
6.3% Herrington	$_{0.8\%}$ Rockcastle Creek, Martin Co.
8.3% Laurel River	$_{1.0\%}$ Rough Creek, Hardin Co.
<sub>0.8%</sub> Martins Fork	2.3% Rough River, Grayson/Ohio Co.
6.9% Nolin	1.6% Roundstone Creek, Hart Co.
5.3% Paintsville	1.1% Royal Springs, Scott. Co.
5.1% Rough River	0.7% Russell Fork (Lower), Pike Co.
2.3% Yatesville	2.0% Sinking Creek, Breckinridge Co.
	1.1% Station Camp Creek, Estill Co.
<b>Brook Trout Streams</b>	<sub>0.6%</sub> Sturgeon Creek, Lee Co.
1.3% Dog Fork, Wolfe Co.	1.1% Sulphur Spring Creek, Simpson Co
<sub>0.5%</sub> Poor Fork, Letcher Co.	3.8% Trammel Fork, Allen Co.
1.4% Parched Corn Creek, Wolfe Co.	1.5% Triplett Creek, Rowan Co.
0.9% Shillalah Creek, Bell Co.	

	ase check any of th ut in 2002.	e following lakes	s that you fished for
			10.0
=======================================	Bert Combs Lake	= -	alfe County Lake
=	Beulah Lake	<i>5.,, ,,,</i> =	Creek Lake
•., • =	Cannon Creek Lake	~ <b>=</b> .	nsboro Park Lake
	Cranks Creek Lake		sville Lake ody WMA Lake
2.0 /0	Fisherman's Park Lake	= .	ner's Lake
	Fishpond Lake	= = .	ord Lake
=	Upper Game Farm Lake Greenbo Lake	0.070	e Spring Park Lake
	Kingdom Come Lake		Wallace Lake
_ = -	Laurel River Lake		d Creek Lake
- , , .	Madisonville Park Lake	3.4%	d Creek Lake
	average, what percease?	centage of the tr	out you catch do you
reio	ease:	Range = 0-100%	25th percentile = 10%
		% Mean = $54.1\%$	50th percentile = 50%
			75th percentile = 95%
12. Did	l you buy a trout pe	ermit in the two	years previous to 2002°
		Yes	No
	2000	70.9%	29.1%
	2001	78.4%	
I	F YOU BOUGHT	A TROUT PERI	MIT IN BOTH

2000 AND 2001, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 15.

13. Check the single most important reason why you didn't buy a trout permit in one or both of the two years previous to 2002. 44.3% I just started trout fishing 28.7% I didn't have enough time to trout fish 5.5% I didn't intend to keep trout, so I didn't need one 3.7% I didn't have anyone to go trout fishing with 3.9% The permit is too expensive 0.6% Trout fishing in general is too expensive 13.3% Other (please specify) no specifics given 14. Check the single most important reason why you bought a trout permit in 2002 after not buying a permit in one or both of the previous two years. 28.2% I just started trout fishing in 2002 18.4% I have more time to trout fish 3.2% I started keeping trout in 2002 27.5% Someone asked me to go trout fishing in 2002 1.0% I have more money to fish for trout 5.3% Trout fishing opportunities have increased 3.5% The quality of trout fishing has increased

12.9% Other (please specify) 20 various answers

15.	<b>Currently, the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife</b>
	Resources does not require trout anglers to purchase a trout
	permit unless they intend to harvest trout. Check the
	response indicating your feelings regarding this policy?

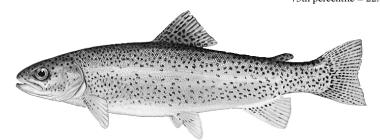
36.2%	Strongly Support the Policy
13.7%	Somewhat Support the Policy
17.1%	Neutral
12.4%	Somewhat Oppose the Policy
15.4%	Strongly Oppose the Policy
5.3%	No Opinion

16. What length, to the nearest inch, do you consider quality size for each of the following species of trout?

	<b>2</b>	25th percentile = $12.0$
	Range = $0-30$	50th percentile = $15.0$
Brown Trout	$\underline{\text{Mean} = 14.6}$ Inches	75th percentile = $18.0$
	Range = $0-30$	25th percentile = $12.0$
Rainbow Trout	Mean = 12.9 Inches	50th percentile = $12.0$
		75th percentile = $15.0$

17. What length, to the nearest inch, do you consider trophy size for each of the following species of trout?

	8 - <b>F</b>	25th percentile = $18.0$
	Range = $0-50$	50th percentile = $20.0$
<b>Brown Trout</b>	$\underline{\text{Mean} = 21.1}$ Inches	75th percentile = $24.0$
	Range = $0-60$	25th percentile = 18.0
Rainbow Trout	$\underline{\text{Mean}} = 19.9$ Inches	50th percentile = $20.0$
		75th percentile - 22.0

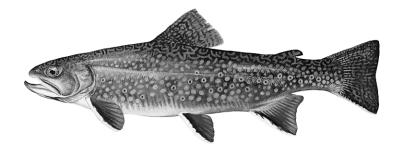


18. The Fisheries Division is considering reducing the rainbow trout statewide daily creel limit. Currently, the creel limit is 8 rainbow trout. To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following statewide daily creel limits?

, of	Sold Sold	ort Sur	port	Stron	ose Ao Objition
a) 8 rainbow trout 54.6%	\$\sqrt{11.7%}	11.9%	507 	10.9%	3.1%
b) 6 rainbow trout $\square$ 16.9%		16.0%	12.9%	24.0%	4.4%
c) 5 rainbow trout 8.8%	11.2%	 17.2%	20.0%	 37.9%	4.9%
d) 4 rainbow trout 12.3%	5.6%	12.2%	14.7%	50.0%	5.2%

19. Check the statewide daily creel limit for rainbow trout you prefer.

8 rainbow	6 rainbow	5 rainbow	4 rainbow
trout	trout	trout	trout
60.9%	20.1%	8.0%	11.0%



20.	Chumming is a practice of spreading bait (ex. corn) or other natural parts in the water around a fishing area for the purpose of attracting trout to be caught by angling. Check the response indicating to what extent you support or oppose the practice of chumming for trout.  11.8% Strongly Support this Practice 12.7% Somewhat Support this Practice 23.5% Neutral	22.	The time and date of trout stockings are curseveral weeks in advance by the Fisheries D Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources do you support or oppose this policy?  33.4% Strongly Support Policy 16.1% Somewhat Support Policy 18.0% Neutral	ivision of KY
	15.1% Somewhat Oppose this Practice		13.6% Somewhat Oppose Policy 15.9% Strongly Oppose Policy	
	32.6% Strongly Oppose this Practice		15.9% Strongly Oppose Policy 3.0% No Opinion	
	4.3% No Opinion		3.0% <b>110</b> Opinion	
21. Check the response indicating your feelings toward the following statements. "Once caught, trout should have to be immediately released or counted towards the daily limit. It should be illegal to cull trout from the creel or livewell (replace smaller trout with larger trout)."  57.2% Strongly Support Statements  16.0% Somewhat Support Statements  10.4% Neutral  7.0% Somewhat Oppose Statements  7.3% Strongly Oppose Statements  2.1% No Opinion		<ul> <li>23. Check the response indicating your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the trout program administered by the Fisheries Division of the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.</li> <li>44.9%  Very Satisfied</li> <li>34.7%  Somewhat Satisfied</li> <li>11.4%  Neutral</li> <li>4.9%  Somewhat Dissatisfied</li> <li>1.2%  Very Dissatisfied</li> <li>2.9%  No Opinion</li> <li>24. Are you a member of any of the following organized trout groups?</li> </ul>		
				Yes No
			Trout Unlimited	5.7% 94.3%
			Federation of Fly Fishers - Associated Club	1.2% 98.8%
			Other Trout Club	1.4% 98.6%

25. In what Kentucky county is your permanent address? **Lake Cumberland Tailwater Questions** 1) Jefferson - 9.7% County 2) Fayette - 6.5% 3) Pulaski - 3.5% 27. What method of access do you primarily use to fish the Lake 4) Kenton - 3.2% Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to 5) Laurel - 2.9% the KY-TN state line for trout? (Check one) 26. Did you fish the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line in any of Bank fishing the last 3 years? Wade fishing 53.3% 46.7% Boat fishing 31.6% Yes  $\square$ No Both wading and boat fishing 28. The Fisheries Division is considering changing size limit regulations on rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland You have completed tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN this survey! state line. Rainbow trout in the tailwater are currently Please turn to the managed with a no size limit regulation. To what extent inside back cover. would vou support or oppose each of the following size limit regulations? A protective slot limit means all trout within that range must be released. **Please Continue** to Next Page! a) No minimum size limit 13.5% 12.4% 12.6% 27.9% 3.1% b) 15-20 inch protective slot limit c) 13-18 inch protective slot limit d) 16-22 inch protective slot limit

e) 15 inch minimum size limit

9.2% 14.6% 19.3% 18.9% 30.7% 6.2%

22.1% 18.0% 14.9% 12.7% 26.7% 4.6%

29.	Check the size limit on rainbow trout you prefer for the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.  37.7% No minimum size limit 12.5% 15-20 inch protective slot limit 18.7% 13-18 inch protective slot limit 7.3% 16-22 inch protective slot limit 22.9% 15 inch minimum size limit	31.	The Fisheries Division is also considering changing creel limit regulations on rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line. Rainbow trout in the tailwater are currently managed with a 8 fish creel limit. To what extent would you favor or oppose each of the following creel limit regulations?  Strongly Support Suppor
30.	If you were informed that 1)fishing pressure on the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line has doubled over the last 7 years, 2)harvest of rainbow trout has more than tripled, and 3)hatchery limitations prevent increasing the stocking rate of rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, what size limit on rainbow trout would you prefer?		a) 8 rainbow trout
	18.1% No minimum size limit 14.7% 15-20 inch protective slot limit 23.2% 13-18 inch protective slot limit 10.0% 16-22 inch protective slot limit 33.0% 15 inch minimum size limit	32.	Check the creel limit on rainbow trout you prefer for the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.  8 rainbow 6 rainbow 5 rainbow 4 rainbow trout trout trout trout  \[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc

33.	If you were informed that 1) fishing pressure on the Lake
	Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to
	the KY-TN state line has doubled over the last 7 years,
	2)harvest of rainbow trout has more than tripled, and
	3)hatchery limitations prevent increasing the stocking rate of
	rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, what creel
	limit on rainbow trout would you prefer?

8 rainbow	6 rainbow	5 rainbow	4 rainbow
trout	trout	trout	trout
27.0%	33.9%	15.4%	22.6%

34. To what extent would you favor or oppose a regulation making the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line a "designated trout water"? This regulation change would mean that anyone fishing the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Kentucky-Tennessee state line would be required to purchase a trout permit whether they intended to keep trout or not.

60.8%	Strongly Support Regulation
12.6%	Somewhat Support Regulation
7.5%	Neutral
5.5%	Somewhat Oppose Regulation
11.8%	Strongly Oppose Regulation
0.8%	No Opinion

35. Please indicate your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with fishing for the following species in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.

Brown trout	Rainbow trout	
28.7%	49.9%	Very Satisfied
30.1%	34.8%	Somewhat Satisfied
16.1%	6.4%	Neutral
13.3%	4.8%	Somewhat Dissatisfied
5.0%	1.1%	Very Dissatisfied
5.8%	2.1%	No Opinion



